

## **Welcome to the Legislative Update for May 1, 2015**

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep older Arizonans and advocates of aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight federal legislation or activities affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The ***Legislative Update*** is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

Now that the 52<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, First Regular Session has adjourned, we plan to offer the ***Legislative Update*** on a monthly basis with a focus on federal legislation or activities and local, state or national resources and information.

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### **STATE FISCAL NEWS**

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee/JLBC**

*JLBC - Monthly Fiscal Highlights April 2015* [HERE](#)

According to the April report, “Year-to-date, base General Fund revenues are 4.9% above the prior year and are \$87.5 million above the enacted budget forecast.”

*April Revenue and Budget Updates* [HERE](#)

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**Governor Ducey** to Hold Statewide Leadership Summit

News release [HERE](#)

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### **FEDERAL OVERVIEW**

**Senate Special Committee on Aging Hearing May 6, 2015, 2:00 PM**

*Aging in Place: Can Advances in Technology Help Seniors Live Independently?*

**Special Committee on Aging** [webpage](#)

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## **Updates:**

### **S.Con.Res.11**

**An original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2017**

Introduced on 3/20/15 by Senator Michael B. Enzi (WY)

Engrossed Amendment House (4/20/2015) [HERE](#)

**4/30/2015 Conference report agreed to in House: On agreeing to the conference report Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 226-197.**

[\*\*H.Rept.114-96 Conference Report\*\*](#)

[\*\*Joint Explanatory Statement\*\*](#)

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### **H.R.2**

#### **Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015**

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

Introduced 3/24/2015 by Representative Michael C. Burgess (TX-26)

Text of Version (Engrossed in House) [here](#)

**LATEST: Signed into law by the President on April 16, 2015; Public Law No: 114-10.**

**National Council on Aging/NCOA** statement regarding the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization [HERE](#)

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### **H.Con.Res.27**

**Establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016**

**and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.**

Introduced on 3/10/15 by Representative Tom Price (GA-6)

**4/13/15, received in the Senate.** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar Under General Orders.

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**House Appropriations** Statement on Fiscal Year 2016 Transportation, Housing & Urban Development Bill [HERE](#)

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**Other legislation:**

**S.879**

**Americans Giving Care to Elders (AGE) Act of 2015**

Introduced on 3/26/2015 by Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN)

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow caregivers a tax credit for up to \$6,000 of the eldercare expenses incurred for their parents (or ancestors of such parents).

Amends the Older Americans Act of 1965 to: (1) increase and extend funding for the National Family Caregiver Support Program through FY2019, and (2) require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award a grant to or enter into a cooperative agreement with a public or private nonprofit entity to establish a National Resource Center on Family Caregiving to provide information on and support for family caregiver support programs.

On 3/26/15, read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

**S.968**

**Huntington's Disease Parity Act of 2015**

Introduced on 4/16/2015 by Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand (NY)

To require the Commissioner of Social Security to review the medical and evaluation criteria for determining disability in a person diagnosed with Huntington's Disease and to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals disabled by Huntington's Disease.

On 4/16/15, read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

## **H.R. 1369**

### **Veterans Access to Extended Care Act of 2015**

Introduced on 3/16/2015 by Representative Jackie Walorski (IN-2)

This bill modifies the treatment of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) agreements with service providers to furnish veterans with nursing home care, adult day health care, or other extended care services.

Any such agreement shall:

- not be treated as a federal contract for the acquisition of goods or services and shall be not subject to any provision of law governing federal contracts for the acquisition of goods or services, and
- include specified requirements (such as for medical licensing and VA review of staff and facilities) to ensure the safety and quality of care furnished to veterans pursuant to such agreement.

The failure of a provider to comply with a provision of the agreement may result in VA termination of the agreement.

Such agreements are exempted from the application of certain public contract labor laws.

On 3/27/15, referred to the Subcommittee on Health

## **H.R.1383**

### **Medicare Adult Day Services Act of 2015**

Introduced on 3/16/2015 by Representative Linda T. Sanchez (CA-38)

Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to: (1) cover certified adult day services furnished in a certified adult day services center and meeting specified requirements, and (2) require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to increase by 3% the payment amount otherwise effective for such services furnished in a rural area on or after January 1, 2016, and before January 1, 2018.

On 3/16/2015, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, Committee on Energy and Commerce.

## **H.R.1420**

### **National Traumatic Brain Injury Research and Treatment Improvement Act of 2015**

Introduced on 3/18/2015 by Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-9)

Requires the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to: (1) evaluate existing surveillance and data collection systems that track the incidence and circumstances of traumatic brain injury, including concussion; (2) establish a statistically sound, scientifically credible, and integrated National Traumatic Brain Injury Surveillance System; and (3) ensure that the System is designed in a manner that facilitates further research on brain injury.

Requires the CDC to make information and analysis in the System available to the public and ensure that privacy and security protections applicable to the System are at least as stringent as those under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

On 3/20/2015, referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

## **H.R.1559**

### **Health Outcomes, Planning and Education (HOPE) for Alzheimer's Act of 2015**

Introduced on 3/24/2015 by Representative Christopher H. Smith (NJ-4)

This bill amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to cover comprehensive Alzheimer's Disease care planning services.

On 3/24/15 referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Committee on Ways and Means.

Related bill: [S.857](#)

## **H.R.1645**

### **Transportation for Elderly and Disabled Individuals Act of 2015**

Introduced on 3/26/2015 by Representative Marc A. Veasey (TX-33)

To amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to urbanized area formula grants, and for other purposes.

On 3/27/15, referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.

## **H.R.1726**

### **Access to Quality Diabetes Education Act of 2015**

Introduced on 3/26/2015 by Representative Ed Whitfield (KY-1)

Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to recognize state-licensed or -registered certified diabetes educators or state-licensed or -registered health care professionals who specialize in teaching individuals with diabetes to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to manage the individual's diabetic condition and are certified as a diabetes educator by a recognized certifying body.

Directs the Government Accountability Office to study the barriers that exist for Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes in accessing diabetes self-management training services under the Medicare program.

Requires the Director of the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality of the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a series of recommendations on effective outreach methods to educate primary care physicians and other health care providers as well as the public about the benefits of diabetes self-management training.

On 3/26/15, referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and Committee on Ways and Means.

## **H.R.1742**

### **Child and Elderly Missing Alert Program of 2015**

Introduced on 4/13/2015 by Representative Steve Chabot (OH-1)

Amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Attorney General to award public safety and community policing grants to eligible nonprofit organizations to assist federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing children and elderly and disabled individuals through the use of a rapid telephone and cellular alert call system. Defines an "elderly individual" as an individual 60 years of age or older.

Permits the use of grant funds to: (1) maintain and expand technologies and techniques to ensure the highest level of performance of services; (2) provide both centralized and on-site training, and to distribute information, to law enforcement agency officials about missing individuals and use of a rapid telephone and cellular alert call system; (3) provide services to Child Abduction Response Teams; (4) assist law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking through the use of rapid telephone and cellular alert calls; (5) share appropriate information on cases with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the AMBER Alert, Silver Alert, and Blue Alert programs, and law

enforcement; and (6) assist appropriate organizations with education and prevention programs related to missing individuals.

Directs the Attorney General to annually: (1) require each grantee to submit the results of monitoring and evaluations of grant recipients, and (2) publish a report regarding such results and the effectiveness of activities carried out under each grant.

On 4/13/2015, referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

## **H.R.1811**

### **Protecting and Preserving Social Security Act**

Introduced on 4/15/2015 by Representative Theodore Deutch (FL-21)

Directs the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor to prepare and publish for each calendar month a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers (CPI-EC) that indicates changes over time in consumption expenditures typical for individuals in the United States age 62 or older.

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act (SSAct) to make the CPI-EC the applicable Consumer Price Index for computation of cost-of-living increases in OASDI benefits for such individuals.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to prescribe special rules for the determination of wages and self-employment income above the contribution and benefit base after 2015.

Amends SSAct title II to include surplus average indexed monthly earnings in the determination of primary OASDI amounts.

On 4/15/15, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Education and Workforce.

## **H.Res.211**

**Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that veterans deserve the health and living standards they fought to protect.**

Introduced on 4/17/2015 by Representative Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20)

Text [here](#)

On 4/17/15, referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Committee on Armed

Services.

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If you want to check on the status of any federal legislation, go to <http://beta.congress.gov/> and enter the bill number or title.

Check for **active federal legislation** at this [link](#).

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### **Share your opinions with members of Congress!**

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives or Senators by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.

Links to the membership lists are provided below.

[House](#) members

[Senate](#) members

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**You can contact the White House** at this [link](#).

ALSO: A compilation of contact information is provided at: <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

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### **NEWS & RESOURCES**

From the **Administration for Community Living/ACL**

**May is Older Americans Month** – The 2015 theme is *Get Into the Act*

Information& resources [here](#)

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From **Kaiser Health News**

**[Running Out of Money Is More Than Just A Worry For Many Seniors, Study Finds](#)**



## **Officials Weigh Options To Hold Down Medicare Costs For Hospice**

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From **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities/NASUAD**

*Friday Updates, May 1, 2015*

### **Financial Security for Older Adults Webinar Resources Posted**

The National I&R Support Center hosted a webinar on resources for financial security for older adults this past Wednesday. Presented by Lara Hinz of the [\*\*Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement \(WISER\)\*\*](#), the webinar identified issues related to financial need in older adulthood and shared information on resources that specialists can use when working with older adults.

[\*\*Click here\*\*](#) to view the presentation and access the audio recording.

*Friday Updates, April 24, 2015*

The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) and the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger (NFESH) released *The State of Senior Hunger in America 2013: An Annual Report* at the NASUAD Spring Meeting on Thursday. The study shows that 15.5 percent of seniors or 9.6 million individuals age 60 or older in the United States faced the threat of hunger in 2013. From the start of the Great Recession in 2007 to 2013, there was a 56 percent increase in the number of seniors affected by hunger. The report also provides the rates of senior hunger in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia

[\*\*Click here\*\*](#) to view the press release.

[\*\*Click here\*\*](#) to access the report.

*Friday Updates, April 10, 2015*

Grantmakers in Aging (GIA) has published a NASUAD Issue Brief on Aging with Disability.

Issue Brief on GIA website [\*\*HERE\*\*](#)

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From the **National Council on Aging/NCOA Week** April 28, 2015

### **Falls prevention and transportation**

Join the National Center on Senior Transportation on May 6 for a free webinar on the importance of falls prevention awareness in transportation. Each year, 37,000 older adults sustain injuries that require medical attention due to getting into and out of a vehicle. Explore strategies for ensuring that older passengers can use

public transportation independently, safely, and without fear.

[Sign up](#)

**Webinar: Strong Brains, Sharp Minds – Part II**

Join NCOA and IlluminAge to explore inexpensive, community-based programs that promote brain-friendly choices and opportunities for seniors and caregivers.

The free webinar is May 7.

[Register](#) | [Watch the Part I webinar](#)

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From the **National Alzheimer's Project Act**

Updated information can be found at:

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>

(Be sure to scroll up and down the page for information.)

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**Genworth 2015 Cost of Care Survey**

Webpage: *Compare Long Term Care Costs Across the Nation* [HERE](#)

Pdf document [HERE](#)

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From **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services/CMS**

[prescriber-level Medicare data](#)

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From the **Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute/PHI**

[FSLA Facts](#), No. 2, April 2015

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**White House Conference on Aging Blog** [HERE](#)

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From **AARP Public Policy Institute**

## [Livability Index – Great Neighborhoods for All Ages](#)

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If you're interested in seeing bills tracked by the Advisory Council this past legislative session, open the FULL LIST link (below). BE SURE to click on the bill number for more information on that specific bill.

### FULL LIST [Link](#)

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on a tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It does mean that the topic is something that may be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans.

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***Share your thoughts at any time!*** If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your Legislators, you can voice your opinions by contacting the:

- **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 in Phoenix, 520-628-6580 in Tucson and in-state toll free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or
- The **legislator(s) from your area**. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature [website](#)** and looking for: ***How do I find My Legislators***. Not sure about your congressional or legislative district? **Maps** can be found on the Arizona State Legislature website linked [here](#).

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### Arizona State Legislature Website Resources

Want to learn more about the legislative process ahead of the next session? See [Arizona Bill](#) or *Bill to Law* provided [here](#).

Learn about the budget process [here](#).

Review the Arizona Constitution [here](#).

Learn more at Frequently Asked Questions linked [here](#).

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### INFORMATION & RESOURCES

**WHAT: Region 6 Conference on Aging**

300 Collins Rd., Bisbee AZ

More information [here](#)

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**WHAT: 2015 Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Annual Conference**

**WHEN: Friday, June 12, 2015**, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, Mesa Convention Center, 263 N. Center Street, Mesa AZ 85201. Registration required; seating is limited.

Register at [azalz.org/public](http://azalz.org/public) or call 480-648-5677.

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Just in case you're interested

Past issues of the *Legislative Updates* are linked on the Council website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>.

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You can help circulate resource information. If you would like to submit an **educational** or **public service event** for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description and a link or pdf document to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov). Please note: we try to include resources and events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates and refrain from including fundraising or marketing materials.

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Enjoy your summer!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging



If you wish to be REMOVED from or know someone who would like to be ADDED to the Update, please send an email to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov) and ask to be unsubscribed or subscribed to the **Legislative Update**.